

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Feb 2, 1996

Let us get started in
saving our country by first
saving our children. Help
Westinghouse and others and
eliminate the trash that
television now teaches.

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Paul D. Jacques

The children's hour

AUSTIN - We live in a nation that has just sentenced a 12-year-old boy, less than 5 feet tall with an IQ of less than 60, to a maximum-security juvenile facility. It is not a proud day. No matter what your view on either the necessity or the appropriateness of this measure, we can all agree that this child was failed by his parents, teachers, social workers and society.

Of course, there are no simple answers as to why a child becomes a killer at the age of 10; his companion, who was 11 when the crime was committed, has an IQ of 76, flunked every subject in the fourth grade, was passed on to fifth grade anyway, frequently ran away from home and slept in abandoned buildings, and has a father in prison who taught him to fight when he was 6. Killers and lost children both.

No simple answers. But more and more experts are saying that television has replaced the family as the single strongest influence in a large number of children's lives. So many come from single-parent families, and while their sole parent is away working, they are left for hours on end with only The Box for company. And The Box's single strongest message is acquire, acquire, acquire - things to make you fast, things to make you strong. Things will make you attractive, things will bring you friends, things will make you happy, things will give you control, things will bring you love, things make you successful.

Now take a look at what happens in Washington when the Good Guys try to set aside a smidge, just a tiny smidge, of time on television to educate children. God knows it's certainly farcical enough, but it's not funny.

WESTINGHOUSE Electric Corp., which is taking over CBS, announced that it is voluntarily increasing educational programming from one hour a week to two hours in 1996 and three hours in 1997. And did our solons applaud this magnificent gesture? They did not.

"Blackmail!" cried the Republicans. "Outrage!" Poor, pitiful Westinghouse was having its ti-

COMMENTARY

Molly Ivins

ny corporate arm twisted out of its tiny corporate socket by the likes of the Center for Media Education, a nonprofit group that tries to bring children's needs into the debate over telecommunications.

The Center for Media Education is, of course, a flea compared to Westinghouse's elephant, but Sen. Larry Pressler of South Dakota, chairman of

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the Senate Commerce Committee, and Rep. Jack Fields of Texas, chairman of the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications (and No. 1 recipient of telecom PAC money), claimed that forcing CBS to show three hours (!) of educational programming a week is "legalized extortion."

You see, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Reed Hundt, a Clinton appointee, is well-known - I suppose we should say notorious - for supporting educational programming for children. (It's shocking, I know, but these things do happen.) And Westinghouse needs a few waivers from the FCC in order to take over some CBS stations. Ergo, the Republicans believe that CBS caved in on children's programming in order to get the waivers, and they found this so obnoxious that they demanded an investigation of the Center for Media Education!

Rep. Edward Markey, a Mas-

sachusetts Democrat and sponsor of the Children's Television Act of 1990, said to the New York Times, "How mangled have the morals of this town become when only special interests seeking profits are allowed to participate in the license renewal and transfer process?"

Yeah, if you're not a greed-head out for yourself, what are you doing trying to lobby in Washington?

You'll be happy to learn what has become of the aforementioned Children's Television Act. When it was passed, stations claimed they were providing 3.4 hours of educational television a week - but that included such thought-starters as "G.I. Joe" and "The Jetsons." According to a new University of California, Santa Barbara, study, stations still claim they provide 3.4 hours of educational TV a week, but that includes "America's Funniest Home Videos," "Mighty Morphin Power Rangers" and "Yogi Bear." Oh well, he's smarter than your average bear.

THE STUDY also shows that most stations provide only 2.1 hours of educational programming and most kids watch more than 20 hours a week. The problem, of course, is that good educational programming is expensive to produce and is not commercial - that's why "Sesame Street" is on PBS. In addition, the TV industry provides lower budgets to what they call "FCC-friendly" or "compliance" programs and runs them at 5 or 5:30 in the morning.

If you've ever observed a kid watching a "Sesame Street" alphabet segment suddenly crow, "E!" in response to some goofy song, you know what "learning, ready" means. That delighted, high-pitched "E!" is a lot easier to take than the sight of a 3-year-old, thumb in mouth, huddled under his snuggly blanket, watching a rape scene in a gang-banger movie.

Television is now running an ad that tells you buying a Cadillac will give you more control. Actually, sending a letter to the FCC supporting more and better children's programming will give us all a lot more control than that Cadillac.

Creators Syndicate

C.K. McCLATCHY, editor, president, 1983-1986

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The Sacramento Bee

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43-48

February 2, 1988

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NOISIAID
SECTION 551A
FEB 13 1996

Northville, Mi.

Jan. 7, 1996

FCC, Office of Secretary, Rm. 222
1919 M. St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr./Ms.:

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Children are our most valuable treasure, and will be our future leaders. They are very impressionable and need to develop the right values.

Please give them more worthwhile T.V. programs similar to Sesame Street.

They are seeing too much violence and sex on daytime programs. I feel you would want the best - for our Country's future.

Sincerely,

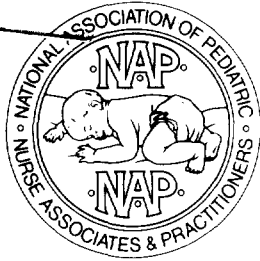
Julia Carlson
(former teacher)

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11/11/96



Virginia Chapter of National Association of Pediatric Nurse Associates & Practitioners

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

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February 5, 1996

Dear Chairman Hundt:

On behalf of my child advocacy organization, I am writing to encourage you to strengthen the guidelines for the Children's Television Act of 1990 (MM No. 93-48).

The FCC Policy Statement of 1974 recognized the important role broadcast television can play in developing the potential of our nation's children. Of great concern are the growing number of articles and editorials which state America's children are lagging behind the children in other developed countries.

Our children are exposed continually to television programming which focuses on sensationalism, violence, and adult situations. It is no wonder that children are committing crimes at younger ages as they are bombarded with these images through the media--so much so they view these as the norm instead of the exception. It is particularly sad because broadcasters have the ability to create educational and entertaining programs which could enrich America's youth.

The FCC needs to strengthen the guidelines for the Children's Television Act by establishing real policies designed to safeguard our children's interests. These would include a clear definition of "educational" programming to close the loophole used by many stations and requirement that television stations air at least one hour a day of 30-minute educational shows between 7AM and 10PM in regularly scheduled time slots.

You are the only regulatory body in a position to effect this change. We urge you to establish the policies necessary to carry forward the true intent of the Children's Television Act. Right or wrong, television does influence America's youth and only you can determine the quality of that influence.

Sincerely,

Gail Allen, MS, RN, CPNP
President
Virginia Chapter of NAPNAP
Box 980309
Richmond, Virginia 23298

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JUVENILE JUSTICE TRAINERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 27 ■ Brooktondale, NY 14817



February 9, 1996

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Executive Director

Gale Smith
P.O. Box 27
Brooktondale, NY 14817
(607) 539-6671

Executive Committee

Susan Yeres, President
335 Fifth Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94118
(415) 221-7445

Felton Satterfield, Vice President
135 Rowardennan Drive
Ben Lomond, CA 95005

Margaret Davis, Treasurer
NYS Division for Youth
52 Washington Street
Rensselaer, NY 12144

Board of Directors

William Brough
Oregon Juvenile Department
Directors Association
985 Kumler S.I.
Salem, OR 97302

Barbara Collins
135 Rowardennan Drive
Ben Lomond, CA 95005

Jesse Doyle
Cook County Juvenile
Temporary Detention Center
1100 South Hamilton
Chicago, IL 60612

Betty Gurnell, Editor
JJTA Newsletter
Department of Probation,
Parole & Pardon Services
P.O. Box 50666
Columbia, SC 29250

Sam Reid
Alabama Department of
Youth Services
P.O. Box 66
Mt. Meigs, AL 36057

Robert Zuercher
Department of Youth Services
3rd Floor
51 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43266-0582

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

On behalf of the Juvenile Justice Trainers Association, I am writing to encourage you to strengthen the guidelines for the Children's Television Act of 1990 (MM No. 93-48).

Broadcast television plays an unprecedented role in nourishing the minds of our children. In the Commission's own words: "There are many imaginative and exciting ways in which the medium can be used to further a child's understanding of a wide range of areas: history, science, literature, the environment, drama, music, fine arts, human relations, other cultures and languages, and basic skills such as reading and mathematics which are crucial to a child's development." (1974 FCC Policy Statement)

Broadcasters have the talent to create children's programs which are as educational as they are entertaining. Yet, today's children have greater access to sensationalistic talk shows, violent cartoons, and adult sitcoms than they do to programming designed to enrich their minds.

The FCC needs to strengthen the guidelines for the Children's Television Act by establishing real policies designed to safeguard the interests of our children. These should include a clear definition of "educational" programming, and a requirement that television air at least one hour a day of 30-minute educational shows between 7:00 A.M. and 10:00 P.M. in regularly scheduled time slots.

No other regulatory body is in a position to make this happen. Please . . . America's children need your help.

Sincerely,

Gale Smith
Gale Smith
Executive Director

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MMB
MM 93-48

Date: February 6, 1996

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The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

On behalf of ~~my~~ child advocacy organization, I am writing to encourage you to strengthen the guidelines for the Children's Television Act of 1990 (MM No. 93-48).

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No other regulatory body is in a position to make this happen. Please...America's children are counting on you.

Sincerely,

Sherrin McCoy
(Signature)

Sherrin McCoy
Name (Print)

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
Title School Nurse

Ft. St. United School District
Organization

300 South "C" Street
My organization's street address

Tustin, Ca. 92680
City/State/Zip

(714) 730-7322
Phone

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MM93-48

Date: Feb 9, 1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

Theresa O'Malley RN
(Signature)

THERESA O'MALLEY RN
Name (Printed)

Child Advocacy Coord.
Title

Baystate Medical Center
Organization Children's Hosp.

159 Chestnut St.
My organization's street address

SPRINGFIELD, MASS. 01199
City/State/Zip

413 184 5285
Phone

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MM93-48

James W. Russelburg
4813 Sylvan Road
Indianapolis, IN 46208

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

February 8, 1996

Mr. Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1270 Fairfield Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I have been a licensed amateur radio operator since 1957. I think it is a wonderful hobby for youngsters because it might guide them into a career in electronics in one area or the other. Now a days it seems that few of our children really want to study math or electronics in school. My personal opinion is that most boys, anyway, would prefer to major in bouncing basketballs. But, if I think amateur radio is great for the youngsters it is fantastic for us retirees, and doubly so if that person is disabled. Simply put, amateur radio is just a wonderful hobby. I am a retired Federal employee having retired over six years ago following 45 years with the Postal Service. I would find it a personal disaster if amateur radio is ever "harmed" in any way. It would really be harmful to a lot of us so-called senior citizen operators. And that brings me to the purpose for this letter.

I saw a letter in the newspaper that you wrote encouraging people to write in insisting upon improving the content of cable programs. And that cable should be mandated to carry so many hours of "educational tv" for children. You see now how this ties in with my first paragraph? When I was first licensed in 1957, amateur radio was strictly controlled. I can well remember being afraid I would do something wrong on the air and have my license revoked. Then a few years later comes Citizens Band and what a catastrophe that turned into. I took mine out of my car because I was embarrassed just listening to the things that were said there.

It seems that now some of those same types are invading amateur radio. It seems that any profanity is ok. That deliberate interference is common place. (just check 14.226 and 14.247 DX nets each afternoon.) I sometimes involve myself in these nets but evidently there are a number of "hams" out there who delight in disrupting just for the purpose of disrupting someone else. Up around 14.313 there is a group of real strange people "discussing" really strange things. Like a soapbox for mentally disadvantaged persons. The thing that bothers me most about this is that this can be heard worldwide. There must be many foreign amateurs who have concerns about the mentality of Americans. More on a local note, there is a 2 meter repeater here in Indianapolis that many local hams use and there are at least two local hams who persist in interfering and harassing. Of course they never identify themselves but two meters is a very short distance medium and most local hams know who is doing it. Several years ago I asked Senator Coates to contact FCC to see if something could be done. I was informed that FCC really didn't have time nor personnel to get involved with amateur radio.

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I am afraid that a really wonderful hobby will end up like Citizens Band. What a terrible thing that would be. We make friends with people all over the world. The entire world becomes a very small place when you can call amateurs all over the world by their first names. We amateurs become one big family. I don't know if you are an amateur or not, but if not you just have to experience it to understand. Please don't let anything ruin amateur radio. It would only take a few serious enforcement actions/fines/confiscations to stop this growing cancer. A few serious enforcements and the word would get around really fast. At this moment (4:45PM) I am listening to the 14.226 DX net and they have just closed it down because some one is deliberately interfering. The amateur on the other end (Africa) says he can't copy anymore because of the interference. What a sad portrayal of Americans to the world.

Please help us save Amateur Radio before it is too late.

*CC: The President of
the U.S.*